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## **Australian Filmmakers Using Crowd Funding to Finish TV Series Shot in Ukraine and Russia**

**Newcastle, NSW. December 13, 2011.** Australian filmmakers Julia Nalivaiko and Stuart McBratney have released a trailer of a new tv series they've shot in Russia and Ukraine. They're now seeking finishing funds through Kickstarter.

*Back in the Soviet Bloc* is a tv series shot on location in Russia and Ukraine. Newcastle-based filmmakers Julia Nalivaiko and Stuart McBratney have completed the shoot, and are now attempting to raise \$25,000 through Kickstarter to complete the project.

They have 26 days remaining to reach their funding goal by pre-selling rewards such as dvds, coffee table books, and Ukrainian feasts. A trailer and synopsis of the show on their Kickstarter page provide an overview of the show's content.

The show is about the life, culture, people and food of Ukraine and Russia, through the eyes of a Ukrainian-born Australian. It features interviews with famous pop stars, celebrities and success stories, as well as everyday people, with the host also sampling food wherever she travels.

Nalivaiko was born in Kiev, Ukraine, and moved to Australia at aged 13. She has trained as a chef, but has been taught traditional Ukrainian cooking by her mother and grandmother from an early age. The show was born from a desire to answer friends' questions.

"Everyone kept asking what Ukraine and Russia are like," said Nalivaiko, "so this is my attempt to answer."

McBratney's 25 years of filmmaking experience allowed him to capture highly cinematic imagery. He has directed hundreds of tv commercials, with clients including McDonalds, Honda and Orange. His debut feature film *Spudmonkey* was released theatrically in 2008. This is his first tv series.

Backers can pledge funds on the *Back in the Soviet Bloc* Kickstarter page. Direct URL: [www.kickstarter.com/projects/406906786/back-in-the-soviet-bloc](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/406906786/back-in-the-soviet-bloc) Or visit [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and search for "back in the soviet bloc".

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